

**R marks**

23 claims are now on file.

Following the Examiner's restriction requirement, the Applicant wishes to elect group I, i. e., claims 1 to 22.

Accordingly, claims 23-36 have been removed from the application without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 1 has been so amended as to be generic to Group I.

Applicant elects Species A (perforated mat) to be prosecuted in the event that generic claim 1 is finally found to be not allowable. Whiting species A, the applicant also elects sub-species C (paper mill sludge) to be prosecuted in the event that generic claim 1 is finally found to be not allowable.

Claims 1, 37 and 2 to 10 read onto Species A.

Claims 1, 37, 2 to 6 and 10 read onto sub-species C.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment:

- Claim 1 is amended;
- Claim 37 depending on claim 1 is added;
- In Claims 2,4-9 , the dependence on claim 1 is changed to a dependence on claim 37;
- Claim 38 depending on claim 1 is added;
- In claims 12, 14-21 , the dependence on claim 11 is changed to a dependence on claim 38;
- Claims 11, 23-36 are cancelled.

These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:

  
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Version with marking to show changes made

1. An oriented strand board composite structure comprising:
  - a first oriented strand face having a layer of wood flakes mixed with a thermoset resin binder; said first oriented strand face defining a plane;
  - a second oriented strand face having a layer of wood flakes mixed with a thermoset resin binder, and
  - a core provided between said first oriented strand face and said second oriented strand face, said core comprising ~~a perforated mat that is oriented such that the perforation~~ voids having boundaries are essentially orthogonal to said plane defined by said first oriented strand face; said voids extending between said first and second oriented strand faces.
2. A structure according to claim 4 37, wherein said core further comprises inorganic filler in the amount of about 10% to 80% by weight.
4. A structure according to claim 4 37, wherein said perforated mat is perforated such that it comprises between 0% and 75% voids by volume and wherein said core further comprises resin binder in an amount of less than 10% by weight.
5. A structure according to claim 4 37, wherein said perforated mat is perforated such that it comprises between 0% and 50% voids by volume and wherein said core further comprises resin binder in an amount of less than 5% by weight.
6. A structure according to claim 4 37, wherein said perforated mat consists essentially of paper mill sludge.
7. A structure according to claim 4 37, wherein said perforated mat consists essentially of recycled paper.

8. A structure according to claim 4 37, wherein said perforated mat consists essentially of vulcanized rubber.

9. A structure according to claim 4 37, wherein said perforated mat consists essentially of thermoset plastics.

11. deleted

12. A structure according to claim 44 38, wherein said core further comprises inorganic filler in the amount of 10% to 80% by weight.

14. A structure according to claim 44 38, wherein said core comprises between 0% and 75% voids by volume and wherein said core further comprises resin binder in an amount of less than 10% by weight.

15. A structure according to claim 44 38, wherein said core comprises between 0% and 50% voids by volume and wherein said core further comprises resin binder in an amount of less than 5% by weight.

16. A structure according to claim 44 38, wherein said compression-resistant material consists essentially of paper mill sludge.

17. A structure according to claim 44 38, wherein said compression-resistant material consists essentially of wood chips.

18. A structure according to claim 44 38, wherein said compression-resistant material consists essentially of recycled paper.

19. A structure according to claim 44 38, wherein said compression-resistant material consists essentially of vulcanized rubber.

20. A structure according to claim 44 38, wherein said compression-resistant material consists essentially of thermoset plastics.

21. A structure according to claim 14 38, wherein said compression-resistant material consists essentially of volcanic rock.

23-36. deleted

37. (new) A structure according to claim 1, wherein said core comprises a perforated mat that is oriented such that the boundaries of each of said voids are essentially orthogonal to said plane defined by said first oriented strand face.

38. (new) A structure according to claim 1, wherein said core comprises a plurality of individual chunks of compression-resistant material that are so oriented that voids between adjacent chunks have boundaries that are in a direction essentially orthogonal to said plane defined by said first oriented strand face.